

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It gives us the opportunity to raise awareness about the risks, prevention, and treatment of a disease that has impacted the lives of too many of our mothers, daughters, friends, and neighbors. Breast cancer is the second most common cancer diagnosed among women in Texas. In fact, according to the American Cancer Society, 13,090 Texas women will develop new cases of breast cancer this year alone. Sadly, 2,570 Texan women are expected to pass away from breast cancer this year as well.

While these estimates are distressing, there is hope. There is hope because early detection of breast cancer greatly improves one's chances of overcoming this disease. That's why I am proud to invite you to the 2009 *Healthy Women Make Healthy Communities* breast cancer screening and awareness event, sponsored by the

[Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation](#)

, the State of Texas

[Breast and Cervical Cancer Services \(BCCS\)](#)

, and

[University Health System](#)

.

I strongly encourage you to attend the event, which runs from 9:00 AM until noon, Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, at [University Health Center Downtown, 527 N. Leona](#). I'll be speaking at 10:00. It will be a great opportunity for you to learn more about this and other critical health issues facing our community. There will be experts on site to answer your questions and teach you valuable lessons about early detection and preventative care so that, ultimately, we can reduce the number of breast cancer cases and fatalities that occur each year. A limited number of free mammograms will also be available to women who pre-register and qualify. To set up an appointment for a mammogram, please call 210-358-TALK (8255).

I hope to see you on Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at the University Health Center Downtown location at 527 N. Leona. And of course, feel free to contact my office at 210-472-6195 if you have any questions as my staff will be happy to assist.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday.